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April 13, 1990

Superfund Fact Sheet

Cliff's Battery Service Sunnyside, Washington

This fact sheet provides information about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) cleanup action to be taken at the former Cliff's Battery Service facility in Sunnyside, Washington. The two-acre site is bordered by residences, a church and agricultural land.

Beginning April 16, 1990, EPA plans to remove soils contaminated with elevated levels of lead from the site under its Superfund Removal authorities. The contaminated soil will be taken to an EPA approved hazardous waste disposal facility. The work will take approximately three weeks.

Former Site Operations

Cliff's Battery Service, operated from 1958 to 1981, dismantled lead from used batteries. Activities at the facility caused contamination of the soil on the site. Battery casings were opened and the lead plates removed. The empty casings were then piled on the edge of a marshy depression on the site, where a bulldozer was used to push the casings into the depression. In 1977, a lead smelting furnace was installed to produce lead wheel weights from the recycled lead.

A drainpipe passes through the pile of battery casings and has two catch basins for sediment traps. The drainpipe travels underground for approximately 1/2 mile before emptying into an irrigation ditch.

Site Investigations

During past investigations at the facility conducted by EPA and the Washington Department of Ecology, groundwater, soil and sediments were tested. The drainpipe and residential wells near the site were also tested. No lead was detected in the residential wells; however, a high lead concentration was detected near the drainpipe.

EPA will be removing the contaminated soil because it may contaminate the groundwater beneath the site. In addition, EPA wishes to minimize the potential for area residents to inhale lead contaminated dust. A motorcycle track currently being operated on the property causes dust to be generated.

For More Information

Please Contact:

**Carl Kitz, On-Scene Coordinator, on the site starting April 16th,
or in Seattle at (206) 442-1263.**

**Michelle Pirzadeh, Community Relations Coordinator
in Seattle (206) 442-1272.**

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